

Hurricane Ida – Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your heart to send a team to Covington, LA to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. This FAQ is designed to answer questions that your team might have when sending a team to serve:

Q. How long would it take to organize teams to come to serve?

A. Teams have pulled things together in a week, but in most cases, teams usually take about four to eight weeks to get paperwork and plans together. We feel that it is important for a team to spend time together to pray and bond prior to serving together.

Q. Where would you stay?

A. Volunteers are staying at our ministry warehouse, 19380 N. 10th Street, Covington, LA. The warehouse sits on the property of our partner, Trinity Church. Volunteers will sleep in bunks in the warehouse. Teams are separated by gender for sleeping purposes. Please do not bring a RV or camper, as the church is not prepared to host them.

Q. How large of a team can the site hold?

A. We can easily accommodate a team size from 3- 20 volunteers. Due to sleeping areas, of the 20 volunteers, if the group represents both genders, then the maximum is 10 volunteers per gender.

To secure a week for your church or organization to serve, complete an Application to Serve and scan it to respond@efca.org. You are given the opportunity to list your preferred week and an alternative week. Prayerfully we will be able to accommodate one of your choices.

Q. What would each volunteer need to bring?

A. Clothes that they don't mind getting dirty; clothes to wear after the workday; twin sheets for the bunk; sleeping bag/blanket and pillow; sleepwear; toiletries; towel and washcloth; mosquito repellent, and spending money for lunches/snacks/dinner on Friday. Check the Team Leader Packet for a complete packing list. Volunteers will receive a ReachGlobal Crisis Response shirt to wear daily to the worksite.

Q. Are showers available? Are there laundry facilities?

A. Showers are available. Please keep the showers short so everyone gets a chance. There is a washer and dryer available as well.

Q. What would you be doing?

A. Teams will be focused on relational outreach, including spending time with homeowners and neighborhoods prayer walks. The physical ministry will be mostly debris clearing and home rebuilding; however, your week might include community outreach-based events and projects.

Q. Where will you work?

A. Teams will be working communities located to the north of Lake Ponchartrain and possibly work in New Orleans.

Q. How are meals arranged?

A. We provide breakfast Monday through Friday, and dinner Monday through Thursday. Teams provide their own lunches, snacks and for any meals not mentioned. If there is someone on your team who would like to help with meal preparations, please let us know.

Q. Are there stores close by to purchase our food items that we provide?

A. Yes, there are several stores within a few miles of the warehouse of where the team is housed.

Q. Would you need to bring your own tools or are there tools for our use onsite?

A. Either way is fine. We have the tools that are needed for the jobs but having more, or the ones most familiar to your own hand is better, especially for specialty work like plumbing or electrical. We could benefit from a donation of chain saws. The team leader is contacted before leaving on the mission trip to discuss if there is a need for tools.

What age limits apply?

A. We prefer children who volunteer be 14 years of age or older. If your team asks for an exception to the minimum age, we ask that a parent to be on the team as we cannot provide the level of supervision children need. We separate genders for sleeping, so we encourage that the child's parent of the same gender accompanies their minor. For youth groups, we ask that the team consist of one adult chaperone for every six youth.

We have had volunteers who are over 90 who have effectively served with us. Not all tasks are physical in nature. We need volunteers to go on prayer walks, help with administrative work, or cook for the teams.

Q. What would be the cost?

A. We ask volunteers to invest **\$340** for a week mission trip (arrive on Sunday early evening/leave Saturday morning). Volunteers also have the option to serve for a ½-week mission trip (arriving Wednesday early evening and leave after the workday on Saturday). The 1/2-week mission trip costs \$175.

Volunteers receive a ReachGlobal Crisis Response t-shirt that must be worn at the worksite.

Q. What are the other requirements for the team members?

A. A desire to be the hands and feet of God to a hurting community. A volunteer would do best if they are in decent health. For those who can't physically commit, we need people to talk to and pray with those who were impacted. Due to Covid-19 guidelines, we are asking everyone to honor social distancing guidelines. We also ask you to bring a mask for situations where you will be asked to wear one, for example, going into grocery stores and public places.

Q. What are the particularly needed skills right now?

A. Jobs may include debris removal and roofing. We have our construction supervisors who will show volunteers how to complete tasks, so you don't need construction skills to serve. We also have staff who will train your team on prayer walks.

Q. Can I fly there?

A. Yes. Most teams fly into the New Orleans International Airport (MSY).

Q. Are there any vehicles that we can borrow while there?

A. No. We have no ministry vehicles available. We encourage you secure the rental of your vehicles prior to making your plane reservations.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions at respond@efca.org or call 985.888.1060